

Appl. No.: 09/556,824

Amdt. Dated: December 8, 2003

Reply to Office Action of: July 7, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant submits with this response a certified copy of the priority document, a translation of the priority document, and a Declaration swearing to the accuracy of the translation. Applicant has claimed priority for Japanese application 11-113059 (see Declaration for patent application). Still further, the Examiner should note that at page 17 (last paragraph) of the specification filed with the US Patent Office on April 21, 2000, Applicant has stated that there is a claim for priority to application 11-113059 filed April 21, 1999 which was incorporated by reference into this application in its entirety.

It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Applicant has shown priority at a date prior to August 17, 1999, the date of the filing of King '396. For this reason, the King reference cannot be applied against Applicant's claims.

Applicant's proof of foreign priority pursuant to 35 USC § 119 overcomes the King reference.

Since all other rejections are based upon King or combinations of King, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any


Appl. No.: 09/556,824

Amdt. Dated: December 8, 2003

Reply to Office Action of: July 7, 2003

reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald R. Snider
Reg. No. 24,962

Date: December 8, 2003

Snider & Associates

Ronald R. Snider

P.O. Box 27613

Washington, D.C. 20038-7613

(202) 347-2600

RRS/bam